Bansapani-Daitari rail line

2839. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target dates fixed for completing the Bansapani-Daitari railway line from time to time have not been adhered to and the reasons therefor, date-wise;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware of the extent of losses to the Railways and to the Steel and Mining industries as a result of such shifting of dates and the quantum of such losses; and

(c) the firm date by which the line would be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Daitari-Bansapani new line project was taken up to serve the upcoming steel plants in the nearby areas and was progressing as per the availability of resources. However, considering the operational importance, this was identified as part of National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) and entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for its speedy implementation. Due to slow development of the anticipated steel plants compounded with construction challenges and resource crunch, the target date of completion of this project was extended a few times since 2004-05 and has now been commissioned for goods traffic on 15.02.2007. As regards losses mentioned, no such details are maintained.

Partnership with US for e-ticketing

2840. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has launched partnership with any US based companies to provide e-ticket facility to passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any public sector undertaking or Indian companies also bid for providing the same facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.